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The Newsletter for Riverside Avenue users and residents

April 2012

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“Unity and understanding brings friendship”

- Your membership of 'RaRa' is automatic and free as a resident of Riverside Avenue
- Please email deputychairman@rarauk.org if you have any information about crime in our avenue. We are in regular contact with PC Andrews of Essex police!

News: lately, we seem to be plagued with unsavoury characters with petty crime on their minds! We have had scrap metal and a statue stolen and an acquaintance noted what looked like a 'drug deal' going on in the car park of the Crown PH. We all need to be aware of strangers and be ready to dial 999 at the onset of any suspicious behaviour. The police would rather attend a false alarm than the aftermath of a theft!

First Committee meetings

Your committee has now had two meetings One in September 2011 and another in March 2012, and we managed to get through a comprehensive agenda. The minutes are available to download from the Website www.rarauk.org.

You will probably have noticed that we have hit the ground running and commissioned the installation of 2 new road signs at the entrance to our avenue, Neighbourhood watch signs and the clearance of the

Gravel lane to Great Meadow (By the pumping station). We have a number of other improvements to look at such as winter gritting and tidying the access to the river.

The main issue was how to raise funds for any repairs/improvements in a fair and acceptable way and it was proposed that a bi-annual fee of £30.00 per household should help us to accrue enough money to undertake repairs in the future. This has the benefit of being real-

istic and affordable in these difficult financial times. We intend to set an upper limit on the RaRa funds, after which no more contributions would be collected. Obviously major expenses would need to be voted on and the Associations accounts would be available for inspection by all members, of which you all are automatically as a resident of Riverside Avenue. Please help by supporting your Residents Association financially so that we have the funds to repair and improve our avenue. Thanks!

Slight change of sewer ownership

You will have had a leaflet through your door about the change of responsibilities for sewer pipes, and we have been asked to clarify this. Basically, nothing much has changed unless there is more than one house connected to a sewer pipe which then leads to a main sewer. You are still responsible for blockages and leaks on your own pipe, but as soon as it branches and connects to a neighbour's pipe, it now becomes the responsibility of Veolia Water. It used to be

the residents responsibility right up to the main sewer.

Whilst on the subject of pipes I would like to clarify clean water supply pipe regulations too. Veolia water is responsible for the supply pipe to the boundary of your property. This is usually the stopcock either in the road or just on the edge of your property. The stopcock itself also belongs to the Water company and they are responsible for it.

One final word of caution: The water company stopcock is not to be used for isolating the water supply, except in an emergency. All residents are advised to familiarise themselves with the location of the internal stopcock within their property and ensure that it operates correctly, it may save you valuable minutes in case of a water pipe burst!

The pipe from the water company stopcock to your house is YOUR responsibility and you will have to cover the cost of repairs to it.

"The objectives of the Riverside Residents Association are to promote a friendly and neighbourly outlook towards fellow residents, protect and promote our investments and ensure the safety and security for visitors and residents alike. Above all, a mantra of 'Live and let live' is paramount to achieving this"

**Riverside Avenue
Residents Association
Newsletter**

We're on the Web! go to www.rarauk.org for news and what's happening!

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Remember:
It's YOUR road!

SPEEDING: Please, PLEASE impress on all members of your household the need to keep the speed of traffic under control. Whilst we can accept that delivery drivers and non-residents are outside of our remit, It has been noticed that some residents drive far too fast, particularly at the blind corner near the top of the road. There has already been accidents there (thankfully, nobody was hurt) but next time it may be more serious. Remember, in the absence of contiguous footpaths, people will inevitably walk in the road, sometimes with small children!!! Please consider your speed carefully. Thank you for your co-operation!

Crime

Further to an email that Phil sent to Epping Forest police District Commander; Cl Ed Wells regarding concerns that the Riverside Avenue Residents Association has regarding the petty crime and vandalism happening in our road (See: www.rarauk.org/Neighbourhood.htm to keep up to date) He received a telephone call from Inspector Matt Twomey of the Epping and Brentwood Police District Neighbourhood Policing Command. Matt

asked PC Alex Andrews to visit our Avenue Which he did and took a walk with Phil on Sunday 15th April 2012. PC Andrews explained that because of government cut-backs, his area was large and his time limited, but he did commit to a regular patrol in our road. He also suggested that we might want to contact him with any information regarding incidents in our avenue for him to investigate. Obviously if there is a crime in progress

dialling '999' is what you should do in the first instance, but he wants to know about it in any case. He suggested that to save him being swamped with emails, it would be a good idea to have a single point of contact, Phil is willing to be that contact person and he can be contacted at deputychairman@rarauk.org. He will regularly update PC Andrews with any concerns that you have, but of course you have to tell him!

Road improvements

You cannot have failed to notice the ongoing improvements our avenue has undergone since the resurfaced Riverside Avenue Residents Association got up and running. We now have new Road signs, a neighbourhood watch scheme, Neighbourhood watch signs, and the Gravel lane to Great Meadow has been cleared. (Thanks to all who helped either with raw muscle or space in their green wheelie bin.) Obviously, improvements do

tend to cost money and I'll sure you will agree that the road surface itself is starting to show signs of wear in places.

"Please remember that your property's value will depend on the condition of the road as a whole"

Maintenance will inevitably need to be undertaken sooner or later. That is why you will find the enclosed letter from our Treasurer, Linda Payne asking to make

a small contribution towards the upkeep of our avenue. We consider that the amount is not particularly great, but if we can all contribute, it will in time produce the funds necessary to repair and maintain our road when required. Please remember that your property's value will depend on the condition of the road as a whole and a small amount contributed now will save many problems and large expenditure later on.